

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 33

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 19, 1947

How to Excel

By Walter E. Myer

MANY years ago I began my occupational life as a teacher, and my first position was in a small midwestern town. While there I became well acquainted with the village doctor, who was then an elderly man near the end of his career.

Dr. Allen was a capable physician who, through long days and nights, ministered unfailingly to the medical needs of the little community. But it is not chiefly for that that I remember him. When my memory turns to him I think of his hobby.

This old country doctor developed a burning interest in the then recently completed Panama Canal. Just why he selected that particular project as a reading and research hobby, I don't know. He had never seen the Canal. So far as I know he never did see it to the end of his days.

For some reason, though, he hit upon it as an object for study. He read books, magazine articles, government reports, pamphlets, anything he could find dealing with the Canal. He collected pictures and lantern slides. He studied the Canal from the standpoints of engineering, public health, commerce, national defense, world policy.

The doctor talked about these problems to his patients, to groups gathered about him in the village store. He gave illustrated lectures in nearby towns. People who listened to him heard a real authority speaking, for few men in the country knew more about Panama than he did. Extensive knowledge in this one field added to Dr. Allen's pleasure in living, renewed his self-confidence, enriched his personality, made him a more interesting character in his community.

What this village physician did, anyone with a fairly good mind can do. You can do it. You will want, of course, to do quite a little general reading so that you will have a fair understanding of many issues. In addition, however, you can concentrate



Walter E. Myer

your attention on some one subject and master it.

Why not, for example, select some nation for special study? Read books and magazine articles about it, about its geography, its history, its products, its foreign trade, its relations with neighboring countries, its foreign policies. Read about the people, their ways of making a living, their culture, religion, education. Or, if you choose, you may make some American national problem your special subject.

You may concentrate on some sport, such as baseball or tennis, studying its history, rules, and players until you become an authority in that field.

You will, I think, like a program of this kind from the start, and as you go on with it, fitting new facts together, interest will increase. As you master the subject you will have more confidence in yourself and you will win the respect of your friends. After a while you will find yourself well along on the road to leadership.



SHOULD this program be continued?

Broadcasts Overseas

Congress and the Press Debate Value of "Voice of America" Programs that Are Beamed to Foreign Countries

SHOULD the United States government continue its "Voice of America" radio broadcasts to foreign countries? This question is being studied and debated in Congress. It is also receiving wide discussion in the nation's press.

The Department of State, which is in charge of this program, has asked for \$31 million to carry out the project for another year. Many in Congress oppose spending this much, and many others want to eliminate the whole program. Other senators and representatives feel that it would be a serious mistake to curtail or eliminate these foreign broadcasts. Secretary of State Marshall is of the same opinion.

This is one of the many issues which Congress faces as it considers how much money to give the various government departments during the next bookkeeping year beginning July 1. If it does not provide funds for the foreign broadcasts, the State Department will have to discontinue them within a short time.

At present our government is operating 36 short-wave radio stations which broadcast nearly 400 hours every week to other nations. Each program is directed (or "beamed") toward a particular country and is broadcast in the language of that country. Programs in 25 different languages, including French, German,

Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Chinese, are put on the air every day. Broadcasts to Russia from an American transmitter in Germany began on February 17 of this year.

Our government first began to broadcast to other countries during the war. At that time the German, Italian, and Japanese governments were sending propaganda to many countries by radio. The Office of War Information (known as the OWI) was given the task of sending American news reports to the people in enemy or occupied countries and explaining to them why America was fighting. These broadcasts were part of the government's campaign of "psychological warfare."

After the end of hostilities the OWI was abolished, but a new organization within the Department of State was formed to continue international broadcasting. It is named the Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs, and is referred to as OIC. It employs over 3,000 writers, editors, translators, and announcers who prepare the "Voice of America" programs and put them on the air every day.

These programs consist of news reports, speeches, American music, questions and answers about life in this country, dramatic sketches, and on-the-spot reports of special events.

(Concluded on page 6)

Vote Privilege For Teen-Agers?

Sen. Vandenberg Seeks Ballot for Youths When They Are 18 Years Old

IF Senator Arthur Vandenberg and several other members of Congress have their way, young men and women in this country will eventually be able to begin voting at the age of 18. These leaders have introduced measures calling for a Constitutional amendment which would permit teenagers to cast their ballots at election time.

To become a part of the Constitution, their proposal must be approved by a two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate. After that, it must be passed by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states. If it clears these hurdles, the rule permitting 18-year-olds to vote will be added to the Constitution.

It will, therefore, take some months—perhaps several years—to determine whether the necessary approval will be given to the plan. If it does not go through, the only way that young people might win the chance to vote when they reach the age of 18 would be if their individual states should decide to give them that opportunity.

Now only Georgia permits 18-year-olds to vote in regular elections. It is generally felt that most states, if left to their own devices, will be very slow in following Georgia's example. So supporters of the 18-year-old voting plan hope that they can put through an amendment to the Constitution.

Although certain members of Congress are strongly in favor of the change in voting age, others are vigorously opposed to the proposal. A similar difference of opinion is to be found among the nation's citizens. In the rest of this article, we present the arguments on both sides. First, here is what those who want 18-year-olds to vote have to say:

"There is no special magic about the age of 21. Our colonists began using

(Concluded on page 2)



A. DEVANEY, INC.

SOME congressmen are trying to arrange for all 18-year-olds to vote



TEEN-AGERS register to vote in Georgia, the only state where they can take part in regular elections

U. S. Voting Age

(Concluded from page 1)

that age to signify that a person was ready to take part in public affairs because the British before them used it. Later, the framers of the Constitution did not place any limit on voting age at all, but left the matter up to the states.

"Although 21 is the age at which a person reaches full citizenship in the English-speaking world and in some other lands, it is not observed in every country. The voting age is 18 in the Soviet Union, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. In Switzerland, it is 20; in Norway and Sweden, 23; in Finland, 24; and in Denmark and the Netherlands, it is 25.

"In our own case, the time has come to break away from the traditional age of 21. Conditions are much different now than when 21 was agreed upon, and we should recognize this fact.

"In the first place, young people are fully capable of becoming voters at 18. Although thousands go on to college, the majority of them have completed their school careers and are beginning to earn their livings. They undertake definite responsibilities at work and at home.

"Just out of school, they are better informed about current affairs than are many older adults. They have been studying about the workings of our government and of their city and state governments. Through their classes, they have kept in close touch with the problems of our nation and of the world.

"If they could become voters at about the time they leave high school, they could begin to use the knowledge they have gained. It would enable them to be more intelligent voters. On the other hand, when they have to wait for three years to cast their first ballots, they lose interest in public affairs.

"Voting by 18-year-olds would have a good effect on candidates for office. The young people would be in the habit of asking questions and demanding reasons before they would decide to support candidates or parties. Not having lost interest in public affairs, they would be eager to check up on candidates and to vote.

"It may be said that at 18 a person still has much to learn and that he needs practical experience. That is true. But if we permit 18-year-olds to vote, we shall increase the number of voters by only one-tenth. The vast majority of voters will be above the age of 21 and will thus be able to control the outcome of elections. We shall not be turning the country over to the youth.

Old Enough to Fight

"At the same time, we should not forget that we were willing to draft 18-year-olds to fight in the war. We thought they were old enough to defend our democracy, so we should agree that an 18-year-old is ready to take part in the democratic process of voting.

"Our democracy will be strengthened if 18-year-olds are permitted to vote. They will be less likely to follow a dangerous leader who might tell them that they were being forgotten and neglected. They could reply to him that they had voting privileges, and therefore were helping to deal with the problems of our country."

Those who are opposed to lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 give the following arguments in support of their stand:

"Young people under 21 have not gained the judgment which a voter should have. While many of them have finished school, they have not yet settled down. The majority are barely gaining a little experience at their first jobs, and some of them will move about a great deal before they settle down permanently to one occupation.

"Between 18 and 21, they will add to the knowledge which they have gained

in school. They will learn more about the problems of the farmer, the worker, and the businessman. They need this practical information before they vote.

"While young people today attend school more years on an average than did the young people of past generations, we also live in a more difficult time. In the simple pioneer days and for years afterward, it was easier to understand public problems. In today's complicated world young people need as much preparation and experience as they can obtain.

"If the voting age were lowered to 18, it is doubtful that it would have any great effect on the outcome of elections. Young people would, in many cases, vote as their parents do. If they live in an area which is strongly Republican, they would probably line up with the Republicans. In Democratic strongholds, they would be inclined to follow the Democratic Party's banner.

"It would be wrong to lower the voting age simply because we drafted

men under 21. Those who were 18 to 21 years old made a fine record in the war. They had the youth, the strength, the courage, and the mechanical ability to be good soldiers and sailors. But that does not prove that young people of the same age have the qualities which are needed for a good voter.

"By adding to the number of voters, under this proposal, we would not necessarily become a more democratic or a more progressive land. Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands are among the most democratic countries in the world, and they have higher voting ages than we do.

Other Improvements

"If we want to strengthen our democracy, we should widen the opportunities for young people as a whole. In many communities, for example, there are excellent schools which are turning out well-trained young people. But more than half of the nation's schools are so poorly supported that they cannot offer first-class opportunities to their students.

"We should also make it possible for young people to stay in school for a longer time. We boast of the fact that so many graduate from high school, but we forget the millions who, for one reason or another, drop out along the way. We should enable more of them to finish high school, and the way should be opened for larger numbers of young people to attend college.

"If such things as these are done for American youths, they will be better off than if they are given the right to vote at 18. They will have no reason to feel neglected."

Outside Reading

Voice of America

"Letting the Whole World Know," by Ferdinand Kuhn, Jr., *Survey Graphic*, December 1946.

"Facts and Rumors," *Time*, April 14, 1947. Activities and effectiveness of the U. S. State Department's OIC.

Voting Age

Congressional Digest, August 1944. Background material and pro-and-con discussion of lowering the voting age.

The Reference Shelf, Volume 17, Number 5, compiled by Julia Johnson. H. W. Wilson Co., 1944. Articles about the voting age.

YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 3, for the correct answers.

1. If your conclusions about a problem are *superficial* (sū'per-fish'āl), you formed them: (a) after careful study (b) after much personal observation (c) with great difficulty (d) hastily, without deep study.

2. Certain leaders of that nation have a *propensity* (prō-pēn'si-ti) for war. (a) hatred (b) abundance of resources (c) thorough plan (d) liking.

3. The two political groups were *fused* (fewzd). (a) united (b) confused (c) defeated (d) quarreling.

4. An act or decision is called a *precedent* (prēs'ē-dēnt) if it: (a) is unpopular (b) serves as an example for the future (c) results in a failure (d) is soon forgotten.

5. The rule was *annulled* (ā'nuld'). (a) cancelled (b) obeyed (c) violated (d) announced.

6. His comment was a *banality* (bay-nāl'i-ti). (a) blunder (b) brilliant remark (c) trite and commonplace remark (d) sharp and brief sentence.

7. They *implied* (im-plid') that they would go. (a) understood (b) hinted (c) doubted (d) hoped.

8. The organization was controlled by a *clique* (klēk). (a) democratic procedure (b) small and exclusive group (c) ex-congressman (d) professor.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"The Smithfield Recreation Association," by Joan Younger, *Ladies' Home Journal*.

During the war the people of Smithfield, Rhode Island, decided that the best way to prevent juvenile delinquency was to give young people something interesting to do in their spare time. A meeting of citizens was called to discuss the problem and the Smithfield Recreation Association was formed.

The aim of the association was to provide winter and summer recreational opportunities for children of all ages. Good equipment and expert supervisors were supplied for the town's playgrounds. Beaches were opened for swimming, with trained lifeguards on duty. A teen-age canteen was set up and equipped with a combination record player, public address system, and recording machine.

To finance and support the Recreation Association, Smithfield citizens contributed their time and money. Then the state legislature was persuaded to vote funds. Now the Community Chest lends its financial support each year. The plan has gained popularity with both parents and young people.

As a result, juvenile delinquency is almost unknown in Smithfield. Four neighboring towns are now sponsoring



LORRAINE GULLI of Silver Spring, Maryland, was the only champion to retain her title in the National Duckpin Congress's bowling tournament this year. More Americans participate in bowling each year than in any other sport.

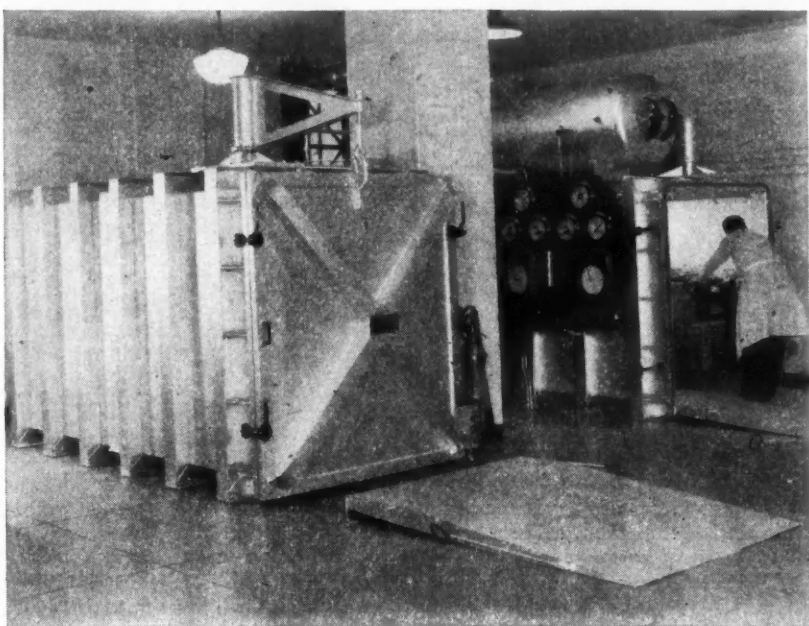
similar programs. Smithfield has proved that an investment in recreation pays good dividends.

"The U. S. Goes Bowling," *Life*.

Bowling has just ended its biggest season. More than 18 million bowlers spent 200 million dollars on the sport last year, and the experts now say that tenpins is the most popular of all athletic activities in which the average citizen takes part. Bowling has even moved into the White House, where a private alley has been installed for President Truman and his friends to enjoy.

Although most bowlers are men, there are 3½ million enthusiastic women bowlers. They have their own international tournament.

The growing popularity of bowling has resulted in the building of giant bowling "palaces." One of the biggest



WHEN NEW DOCUMENTS come to the National Archives to be conserved for the future, they are fumigated in the large steel tanks shown here. This process helps preserve them by killing insects, mold, and fungi that live on paper and destroy or weaken it.

is on a Hollywood sound stage where Al Jolson made his first movie. This 12½ acre palace has 52 alleys where 3,500 games are played every day.

"New Buildings Needed to Keep All the Records," by Carl Levin, *New York Herald Tribune*.

Uncle Sam has been so busy during his lifetime that the record of his activities has completely swamped Washington. As a result, architects are planning two structures to hold the overflow of documents from the present National Archives Building in Washington.

A trained staff of 375 historians and scientists work continually on the selection and preservation of documents of permanent value to the United States. These old records are of more than historic interest—they are in constant use.

During the war, the Army Air Forces used Weather Bureau statistics going back over many years when they decided on the best sites for bases. Researchers and lawyers used the Archives in working out the prosecution's case in the Nuremberg trials. A collection of pictures seized during the First World War from the German General Staff served as guides for bombing raids in World War II.

The private citizen uses the Archives for the service records of the armed forces; in searching for titles to land; in seeking to establish ownership of government bonds; in proving ancestry and citizenship. All records are kept in locked, air-conditioned vaults in which the humidity is carefully regulated. When documents come from government offices they are fumigated to kill any insects or mold which destroy the papers. When possible documents are microfilmed to save space.

"We Must Grasp the Facts About the Atom," by David Lilienthal, *New York Times Magazine*.

The American people must be educated on the subject of atomic energy and it is up to the schools, the universities, the churches, the radio and the press to do the job. These people's institutions must see that our public servants handle the atomic energy

program for the best interests of the people and must prevent atomic energy from becoming the victim of petty politics or bureaucratic timidity.

What are the things that Americans should know about the atom? First, they should realize that the scientific basis of nuclear energy release is not an American monopoly and that it cannot be put in an envelope and locked in a vault. Second, they should clearly understand the issues involved in the effort to achieve international control of the atom and know that failure to bring about such control will mean a grim future for all the world. Third, they should know exactly what atomic energy can contribute to the everyday life, health and prosperity of our people.

I propose nothing less than a broad and sustained program of education

at the grass roots of every community in the land. Will we fool along or politic along, or are we to press forward in the vigorous tradition of a pioneer nation?

"Bosses and Machines," by Edward J. Flynn, a New York political "boss," *Atlantic*.

When one thinks of "machine politics," he is likely to see in his mind corrupt political bosses and their henchmen. Nevertheless, under our present system of government, political machines play a necessary part in the operation of practically every state, city, and county in America. "Machine" is just another name for the small group of people who do the hard work connected with a political party. The leader of that group is the political "boss."

To retain his power, a boss must keep his helpers satisfied. To satisfy them, he must see that they get favors, such as government jobs. To be in a good position for giving favors, he needs to keep his party in control of the government—needs to win elections. The only way to win elections year after year is to know what the voters want and give it to them.

If the boss supports bad candidates and corrupt policies, that is because he knows the people are careless and will let him get away with it. Throwing a corrupt machine out of office is difficult, but it has been done.

Therefore, if a corrupt or inefficient machine stays in power, that is because the public permits it to do so. If we are to have good government, many more men and women must get down off their high horses and grub around in practical politics. They must take part in primary, as well as general, elections.

The people can, if they will, make political machines serve the real public interest. Bosses and machines are necessary, but bad ones are not.

S M I L E S

The president of a railway company had his private car tacked on to a train which was to go over a stretch of newly laid track. He ordered a maximum speed of 45 miles an hour. When the train reached its destination, the president buttonholed the engineer. "How fast did you go?"

The engineer answered: "Forty-five miles an hour."

The president indignantly said the speedometer in his private car registered 62 miles.

"Well, I'll be dingbusted," said the engineer. "I never did see you go past us."

There is the story of the movie producer who was roused from his sleep by the cry of "Fire," and dressed in such a panic that when he reached the sidewalk his coat and pants matched.

Jim: "Why do you call your dog Baseball?"

Bill: "Because he catches flies, chases fowls, and heads for home when he sees the catcher coming."

A Scotch professional golfer, after 14 years of retirement, has resumed the game. Evidently he found the ball.

Maid: "I hear you need a cook."

Mistress: "Thank you, but I've just hired one."

Maid: "Very well, I'll call again tomorrow."

Fussy woman to ship captain: "Why are we going so slowly?"

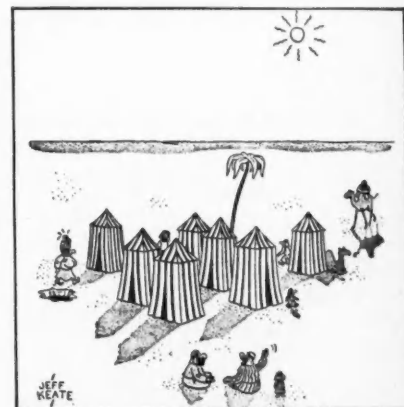
Captain: "It would be dangerous to go any faster in this fog."

Woman: "What fog? I see the stars."

Captain: "But, madam, we're not going in that direction unless the boiler blows up."

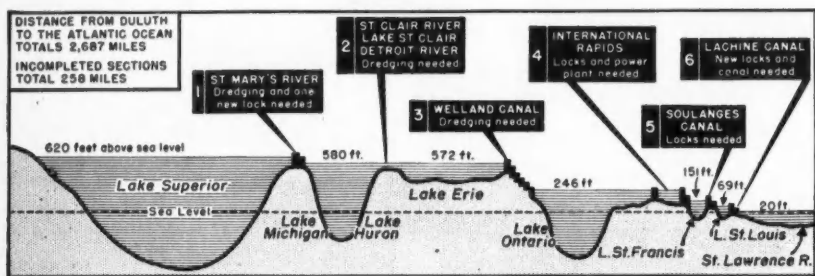
"It's not necessary to knock me down like that, is it?" asked the man who was taking his first boxing lesson.

"No," replied the instructor, "stand up again and I'll show you 13 other ways to do it."



JEFF KEATE IN COLLIER'S
"Just think—a few years ago this was all desert."

The Story of the Week



ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY. The map at the top shows the course of the waterway from the Atlantic Ocean inland to Duluth, Minnesota. The lower drawing shows a cross-section of the waterway. Numbers on the map correspond to those on the drawing.

Seaway to the Lakes

Canada has taken a step which may bring about a link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. The Canadians have agreed to work with the United States on a plan for making the St. Lawrence River navigable from the ocean all the way inland to Duluth, Minnesota. If the American Congress approves the plan and sets aside our part of the money needed to carry it out, the link which has been discussed by the two nations for nearly a half century will be forged.

A glance at the map shows that the five Great Lakes, lying side by side, are connected with the Atlantic Ocean by the St. Lawrence. While it looks as though ships could travel from the ocean into the lakes, it is not possible. The river is too shallow in parts, additional locks are needed in another section, and in a third part of the river a new canal must be built.

Engineers say that these difficulties can be overcome. With improvements (see chart), it will be possible for ocean-going ships to sail from the Atlantic into the lakes.

In spite of Canada's approval, it may be some time yet before the St. Lawrence Seaway gets the support it needs to be put into operation. The U. S. Congress must act, and it may not debate the plan this year.

India's Untouchables

Hindu leaders who are working on a new constitution for India have gone on record against the ancient Hindu system of "untouchability." They have written into the proposed constitution a rule which, if strictly enforced, would abolish that system.

"Untouchability" has been described by Mohandas Gandhi as "the darkest blot on Hinduism." Under this rigid caste system, about 40 million "low-born" Hindus are oppressed and degraded. They are barred from most temples and schools. They must live

in separate villages. They must do the work which Hindus of higher castes regard as unclean and humiliating. In some cases, upper-caste Hindus cannot eat food upon which the shadow of an untouchable has fallen.

Of course, even if India does adopt the legal ban on untouchability, the system will not stop immediately. It has been developing for more than 3,000 years, and it cannot be drastically changed just by a sentence in a constitution. Nevertheless, by officially recognizing untouchability as an evil, Hindu leaders have at least made a start toward wiping it out.

Brazil Outlaws Communists

Efforts being made by the government of Brazil to crush the Communist Party of that country are being carefully watched in many parts of the world. In elections last January, Communist candidates received about 800,000 votes out of a total of 12,000,000.

On grounds that Communists take instructions from a foreign nation, the Brazilian government has outlawed their party and ordered it dissolved. Law-enforcement officials have started to break up clubs and other organizations operated by Communists, and to reorganize some labor unions which they have controlled.

Meanwhile, Communists are expected to ask Brazil's Supreme Court to reverse the government's action. There has been much discussion as to what they plan to do if the Supreme Court refuses to protect them. They may try to work underground as they did several years ago, or they may form a new party under a new name.

Word in the News

The word "guerrilla" crops up constantly as we read of fighting in Greece, in China, or in the Philippines. We also heard it during World War II and in connection with the Spanish Civil War of 10 years ago.

Guerrilla is a Spanish word that means "little war." It is used in the news today to mean fighting by irregular bands of soldiers—soldiers not belonging to regular armies.

Guerrilla was first applied to the small bands of Spanish farmers who fought the French armies that occupied Spain early in the last century. Since then, wherever small groups have organized informally to fight against the forces of their own or an enemy nation, they have been known as guerrilla soldiers. The Anglicized pronunciation of the word is gē-ril'uh.

Search and Seizure

There is much discussion as to whether a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision has weakened the protection provided in the Constitution against "unreasonable searches" of our homes.

Some time ago, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation entered the home of a man named George Harris, with a paper, or warrant, which gave them authority to arrest him on charges of mail fraud. In his home they searched, unsuccessfully, for stolen checks connected with the mail-fraud case. They found something else—illegally altered draft cards. The FBI men took the cards and arrested Harris, who was then tried and convicted under the Selective Service Act.

Harris appealed to the Supreme Court, calling attention to the Fourth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. That Amendment, a part of the "Bill of Rights," prohibits "unreasonable searches and seizures" by agents of the federal government. It states that warrants for search or arrest must describe "the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." Harris argued that the FBI agents had no warrant describing the draft cards.

The Supreme Court voted against him. Five of the nine Justices felt that the FBI men, with a legal warrant to enter Harris' home and arrest him for one crime, were justified in taking items which showed him to be guilty of another. Four Justices objected to this ruling. They said that the seizure in this case was of the type forbidden by the Fourth Amendment.

Many people are pleased that the Court did not free a man who obviously had committed a crime. Others say that the Court ignored an important Constitutional safeguard of liberty, and that the example of this case, if followed in the future, could cause the approval of searches which are actually "unreasonable." Such a result, they declare, would do more harm than the release of a criminal.

Britain Starving?

The British people are not just hungry, they are slowly starving to death on a diet which is worse than the Germans are allowed. This statement has just been made by Dr. Franklin Bicknell, a member of the Royal College of Physicians and a famous British nutritionist.

Writing in *The Medical Press*, one of England's major medical journals, Dr. Bicknell said that "everyone is suffering from prolonged, chronic malnutrition" which makes it physically

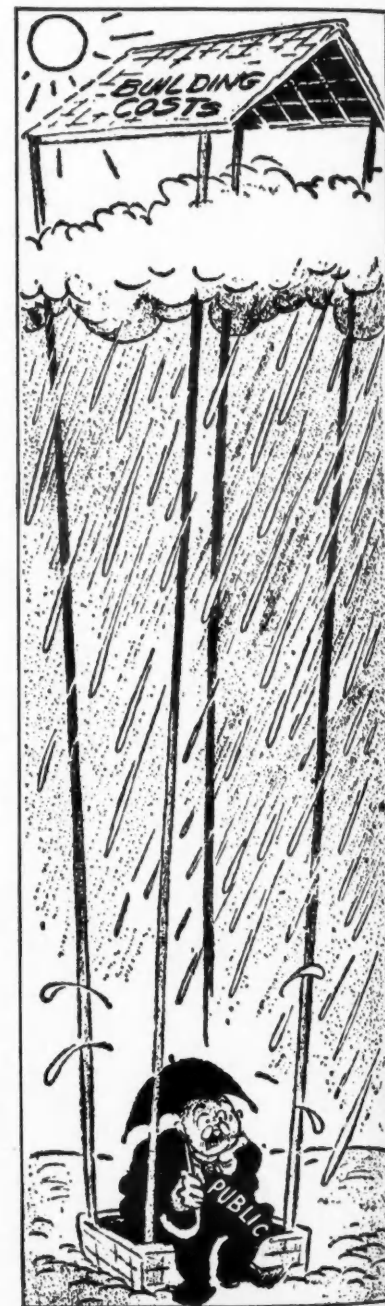
impossible for them to work hard enough to grow all their own food or to make enough exports to pay for adequate food imports. He declared that "we must literally perish as a nation" unless Britain obtains more for her people to eat.

The nutritionist charged that Britain had squandered her reserve of dollars on "silly" purchases of tobacco, films, and other products of no real value. During the depression of the early nineteen thirties, Dr. Bicknell claims, the average employed worker in Britain received 400 more calories a day than he can obtain now.

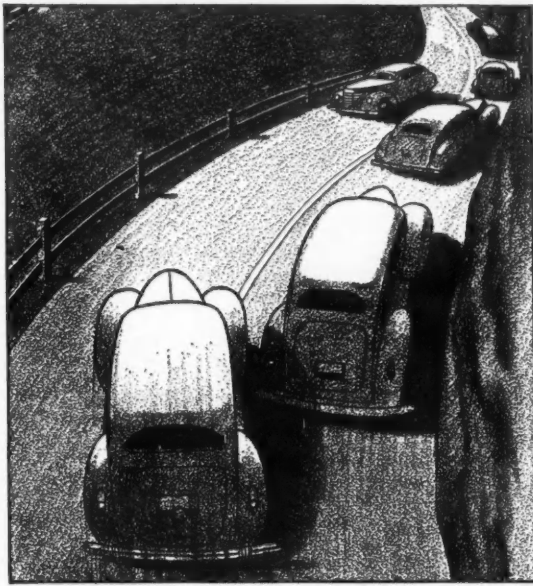
The Food Ministry of Great Britain replies that the present diet of the English people is adequate and that the health of English children has been maintained. Government officials admit that the food is "dull," but they deny that the British are starving.

French Politics

There has been another change in the complicated line-up of parties within the French Cabinet. For several months, the Cabinet contained members of the three largest parties—Communists, Socialists, and Popular Republicans.



AN IMPORTANT REASON why more homes and buildings are not being constructed.



YOU BET YOUR LIFE . . . when you take foolish chances with an automobile . . .

. . . when you get impatient in heavy traffic and pull out of line . . .

. . . when you think you can make as good time in snow and sleet as you can on a clear, dry day.

An economic dispute has now taken the Communists out of that group. Premier Paul Ramadier, struggling to keep prices down, has refused to permit wage increases in French industry. Recently the Communists notified Ramadier that they would no longer support his wage policy.

The premier then removed Communist members from his Cabinet. He still has the support of Socialists and Popular Republicans, but the Communists, now an opposition group, have the strongest single party in the French parliament.

It is not because of their strength in parliament, though, that Ramadier fears the Communists most. His biggest worry is that they will try to damage his economic policies by promoting strikes throughout France.

The French government hopes to strengthen its position by obtaining outside financial aid. It has just received a large loan from the World Bank.

Report on the Balkans

William Lawrence, a reporter writing from Europe to the *New York Times*, gives an overall picture of the Balkan nations today. He confirms the widely held view that the people in most of these lands live under governments that were set up without their consent. They are politically dissatisfied, and large numbers of them are hungry. Crops were bad last summer. Mr. Lawrence mentions the following facts about each country:

Greece is torn by civil war. The rebel fighters, who may be getting help from Communists in other Balkan states, probably number about 15,000. They are resisting Greek government forces of about 300,000. The fighting, of course, hinders trade and transportation, and causes much suffering.

Marshal Tito seems popular in Yugoslavia, though it is true that his opponents cannot easily make their opinions known. The young people are supporting his government enthusiastically and are working hard to rebuild their country, which was severely damaged during the war.

In Bulgaria the Communist government led by Premier Dimitrov is not very popular, and political opponents freely and openly criticize it. Food in that land is scarce, largely because

of the fact that farmers and the government have not been able to cooperate.

Rumania has the unusual combination of a king and a Communist government. As an ex-enemy state, she is still under an Allied Control Commission, but that Commission's policy is made largely by its Russian chairman.

Albania is not open to reporters from Western countries, and neither Britain nor the United States has a diplomat there. For that reason it is difficult to get information about how the country is faring under its Communist government.

Middle East Trade

Although our country's chief economic interest in the Middle East centers around the rich oil deposits of that region, we also have a thriving trade in items other than petroleum with Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Iran, and Arabia.

From them we get hides, leather, camel hair, tobacco, figs, olives, spices, and items of skilled workmanship including carpets and cut precious stones. We bought almost 150 million dollars' worth of these and simi-

lar products from the Middle East in 1946. To that area we sold a little more than 120 million dollars' worth of such items as grain, cloth, and machinery.

Our Merchant Fleet

By the end of World War II, the United States had more than three-fifths of all the world's merchant ships. Now the U. S. government, which operated that great wartime fleet, intends to be out of the active shipping business by the middle of this summer.

The U. S. Maritime Commission, which supervises shipping, has already sold about 1,200 government-owned ships to foreign countries and private American firms. At least 3,000 are to be tied up and held in reserve for emergencies. A large number of worn-out vessels will soon need to be scrapped.

Now, while other nations are beginning to rebuild their war-battered merchant fleets, one hears much discussion about the future position of America's shipping. There are strong arguments against our trying to maintain the world's biggest merchant fleet—either privately or governmentally owned. For instance, because of

high wages and other costs, the expenses of ship owners in America are higher than those in many other nations. Therefore, American shipping companies frequently cannot stay in business, competing with foreign companies, unless our government pays them money to do so.

Nevertheless, in the opinion of many people, our government should make sure that America keeps a moderate number of merchant ships. We must not, they argue, be caught in an emergency without a good fleet.

If we are to keep even a moderate-size merchant fleet in the future, we must, of course, continue to build ships. The thousands of vessels built during the war will gradually wear out. Besides, they were constructed speedily for emergency purposes, and they are not as efficient as ships built more carefully in peacetime.

Swimming Champion

Ann Curtis, the Pride of San Francisco, is the new world's champion 440-yard free-style woman swimmer. She set a mark of 5:07.9 for the title at the national senior indoor swimming and diving meet held at Seattle, Washington, a short time ago.

Ann started to swim when she was nine years old, but the experts who saw her then claimed she would never make a champion because "she had no imagination." Ten years later, after careful coaching and hard work, the experts said Ann had "the greatest free style ever developed in the United States—perhaps anywhere."

When she was a small girl she helped her mother run a boarding house and went to school but she still found time to swim three miles every day. Now at 21, she holds seven records, including the world mark just made. She was the first woman ever to win the Sullivan Award—she was named outstanding U. S. amateur athlete of 1944.

The pretty blonde girl has had several offers from Hollywood, but she has turned them all down. She wants to enter the next Olympics held for swimmers.

Last year, 30 per cent of all persons killed on America's streets and highways were pedestrians. Watch while you walk!



ANN CURTIS of San Francisco (right) tied the world's record and set a new American record for 100-yard free-style swimming in the women's national indoor meet recently held in Seattle, Washington. Brenda Helder of Los Angeles (left) was the former title holder. Miss Curtis also set a world's record in the 440-yard free-style swim.



THE "VOICE OF AMERICA" broadcasts to the Philippines

OIC-STATE DEPARTMENT

OIC Broadcasts

(Concluded from page 1)

The news broadcasts are often of great interest to people in other lands. News of a bumper wheat crop in our country, for example, may mean that other nations will receive larger food shipments from the United States. News of a strike which halts production in some important industry in this country may mean that European listeners will receive less of the American products needed to speed rebuilding of war-damaged homes and factories.

A popular program sent to European countries is called "Radio University." It consists of lectures and round-table discussions on science, literature, economics, education, and international affairs.

Among the special events programs broadcast during the past few months have been direct reports from the Moscow Conference, Secretary Marshall's radio speech to our people on April 28, and the opening session of Congress last January.

Dramatic programs have told foreign listeners about American literature. During the past year the program called "America Speaks" has dramatized portions of *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Brave Men* by Ernie Pyle, and many other American books.

Of the 36 transmitters now operating in this country, 19 are located along the Atlantic coast, 10 are on the Pacific coast, and 7 are in Ohio. The east coast and Ohio stations broadcast to Europe and North Africa, and the western stations send their programs to Asia and Australia. Stations on both coasts also broadcast to Latin America.

The chief problem encountered in broadcasting from the United States is the great distance to be covered. Our transmitters are not strong

enough to be heard in all parts of the world.

To overcome this difficulty, two methods are now being used. For some programs, "booster" stations outside the United States are used to relay American broadcasts to distant countries. The OIC now has such stations in London, Algiers, Munich, Honolulu, and Manila. For other programs, foreign radio stations make recordings of American broadcasts and then re-broadcast them to their listeners at a later time. By these two methods American programs may be sent everywhere in the world.

Additional Services

The information service of the OIC is not limited to radio broadcasting alone. In addition, libraries stocked with American books, magazines, photographs, and motion pictures are located in foreign cities. At present there are 70 such libraries in 41 different countries, including one in Russia. They are open to anyone who wishes to learn more about the United States.

Our embassies and legations abroad receive every day a news bulletin from OIC which they may turn over to local newspapers and radio stations. During the war an illustrated magazine called *Amerika*, written in Russian, was distributed in the Soviet Union. This magazine is still being published and 50,000 copies are sold in Russia every month.

The OIC also assists in the exchange of students and teachers between the United States and other countries. All these activities are carried on for the purpose of promoting better understanding of the United States abroad, and fostering good will toward our country. The work done by the OIC has been criticized by some people, however, and Congress will soon be called upon to decide whether it should be continued, reduced, or eliminated altogether.

In the following paragraphs we present the arguments which are com-

monly heard on both sides of this important issue. Since most of the criticism has been aimed at the radio broadcasts we shall deal mainly with that phase of the OIC operations. Those who oppose the broadcasts advance these arguments:

"1. Now that the war is over there is no need to continue broadcasting to other nations. That was necessary during the conflict to answer enemy propaganda and to encourage underground movements in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and other countries, but it is not needed during peacetime.

"2. Radio broadcasts controlled by the government are likely to become propaganda such as the dictatorships used to control public opinion. Freedom of the air is just as important an American ideal as freedom of the press or freedom of speech. We cannot have true freedom on the international radio if our government controls the broadcasting stations and decides what is to be said on all programs.

"Furthermore, people in other countries have less faith in government broadcasts than in news reports from commercial news agencies. Regardless of the good intentions of our government, foreigners will be suspicious of our broadcasts. In the past they have often been misled by propaganda from governments of other countries.

"3. The quality of the OIC broadcasts has not been high. The announcers are not as good as those on our commercial radio stations here in the United States. The programs have been dull and uninteresting. As a result, few people in other countries listen to the American broadcasts.

"4. Finally, our government must reduce expenses. The OIC is now costing us \$19 million a year, and still more money is being requested. We cannot reduce taxes and balance the budget if we continue to spend money on such unnecessary activities."

On the other side of the question, those who believe that our govern-

ment should continue to send short-wave programs overseas say:

"1. The OIC broadcasts are necessary if the people of other countries are to know and understand the United States. During the war years strict censorship kept these people ignorant of what America was doing. Enemy propaganda gave them false ideas as to our war aims and national ideals. Now that the war is over we must correct these false ideas if we are to have peace and understanding.

"2. Nearly every other government in the world is broadcasting radio programs similar to ours. The British Broadcasting Company transmits more than 600 hours to all parts of the world each week. Radio Moscow broadcasts nearly 300 hours every week. These broadcasts present British and Russian policies in a favorable light, but they often do not describe American policies fully and fairly.

Lose Prestige?

"If we do not broadcast our point of view we shall lose prestige and good will among the people of the world. Only the government can do this job. Representatives of the leading radio chains have told Congress that the task is too big for the private companies.

"3. These government short-wave broadcasts are the only means of reaching people living in countries where newspapers are censored. They also penetrate remote areas which have no newspapers, magazines, or books.

"4. The cost of the OIC broadcasts is small when compared with the advantages which result from them. Ignorance and misunderstanding are among the main causes of war. If we can give the people of other countries a true picture of our policies and our way of life we shall further the cause of peace and good will."

The circus is on its annual tour. Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, probably the most famous circus in the world, will have entertained more than 3,000,000 men, women and children when it returns to its winter quarters in Florida.

The circus is big business and in order to be a financial success the management must plan the tour carefully. The bosses of the big top must know what sections of the country are prosperous and which are tied up with harvesting, hitting the big cities when the people are free and untroubled.

It takes 1,400 persons to keep the circus going—yet only 200 of these actually appear in the arena. The shopping list for one day ranges from 500 loaves of bread for the cookhouse to 7,500 pounds of hay for the elephants.



OIC-STATE DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM BENTON, Assistant Secretary of State in charge of foreign broadcasts

Political Rivalry Divides Sicily

Parties Compete as Island Tackles Its Postwar Problems

THE island of Sicily, although a definite part of Italy, has its own local government just as our states have theirs. The Sicilian people, a short time ago, went to the polls and voted for representatives to their island legislature.

As a rule, the Sicilians are very conservative. They do not like radical changes or experiments. In this election, however, they surprised other Italians and the rest of the world by electing more Socialists and Communists than they ever have before. The radical groups are still not strong enough in Sicily's local government to bring about sweeping changes in the island, but they are expected to have considerable influence in shaping the island's future.

The rest of Italy is carefully studying the reasons for the change of attitude among many Sicilians. The conservative and moderate political leaders, particularly, are concerned over the island's election results. With a national election to be held later this year, they want to take what steps they can to combat the type of dissatisfaction which caused normally conservative Sicilians to vote for radical leaders.

Perhaps the chief reason for increasing discontent in Sicily is the land situation. Most of the best farming areas are owned by wealthy landlords. They have their great estates, worked by extremely poor peasants. During the many years of Mussolini's reign, these poverty-ridden farm workers did not have much opportunity to express

their dissatisfaction and to seek an improvement of their lot.

During and since the war, conditions for them have grown even worse than before. This has made them an easy prey for the radical leaders who, in Mussolini's time, were suppressed,



and who are now making all kinds of wild promises to the wretchedly poor farm families.

The Socialists and Communists are promising, if they come into power, to break up the great estates and divide the land among the farm workers. Outside observers are convinced that the moderate leaders must hurry up and make needed land reforms if they are to weaken the radicals' power.

If the Sicilians can work out their

political and economic problems on a satisfactory basis, there is no reason why they can't enjoy a good standard of living. Their island is about the size of Vermont, with a population of around 4,000,000. It has good soil and climate. The people raise about enough grain for their own use and, with better equipment and methods, could boost their output considerably. They sell such tropical products as lemons, oranges, and olives to other lands. Many of the islanders engage in fishing for a living.

Sicily's sunny Mediterranean climate, the famous 10,000-foot-high volcano—Mount Etna—and the ruins left by ancient peoples attracted many tourists prior to the war. A revival of the tourist trade would be highly beneficial to the island.

Lying near the center of the Mediterranean, Sicily has, during the ages, been crossed by many invading tribes and armies from Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Palermo, with a pre-war population of about 400,000, is the capital and the largest city of the island. Other leading cities include Catania and Messina, each with a population of around 200,000.

Many Sicilians have long felt that they have been neglected by the Italian central government. Some have felt that the island would be better off as an independent country. In addition to land reforms, they would like to have such improvements as better schools, more highways, and more railways.

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

THERE is need for clear thinking on the meaning of compromise. The term means give and take. If a person who is engaged in a dispute is willing to give up part of what he wants provided the other fellow will do the same, and if the other party agrees to the plan, a compromise may be expected. Each person obtains less than he wants, but the two manage to get along together.

Most people, when disputes arise, proclaim their willingness to compromise, but too often they are looking for a one-sided settlement. They are agreeable to compromise if it can be worked out on their own terms. They are ready to concede small points to their opponents only if, in the main, they get what they want. They are not willing to make real sacrifices, such as are usually involved in compromises.

There are times, of course, when an attitude of this kind is justified. It has often been said that "One must not compromise with evil." If one is certain that his case is wholly right he may properly stick to his position through thick or thin.

One may hold his ground even though that means continued bad relations with his opponent. He may do so even though the consequences of the bad relations would be dangerous to his interests, if it would be still more dangerous for him to retreat from the position he has taken. This is true of nations as well as individuals.

Usually, however, in the case of either individuals or nations fair compromises can be worked out if the effort is made in a truly cooperative spirit.

Success cannot be expected if either contestant lays down a program and says: "You must agree to all these demands in advance if there is to be a compromise. We will not give up any essential part of this program."

A more hopeful procedure is to try at first to find common ground, to emphasize the points upon which agreement can easily be reached. Then, if each side studies open-mindedly the big issues that develop, a give and take settlement may result.

A compromise which does not completely satisfy either party, but which protects the really vital interests of both, and which preserves friendly relations can, ordinarily, be found.

Congress has passed a law changing the name of Boulder Dam to Hoover Dam. The giant structure, which lies across the Colorado River at the Nevada-Arizona border, had its beginnings while Herbert Hoover was President, although it was not completed until after he left the White House. Hoover Dam, whose 726 feet make it the tallest dam in the world, holds back a body of water which is the largest artificial lake in the world. Its waters are used to furnish electricity, including about half of all the electric power used in southern California, and to irrigate thousands of acres of farm land.



Letters From Our Readers

Our sociology class recently collected money with which to buy food packages to send to needy Europeans through the CARE organization. We collected enough for two packages, both of which will be sent to a family we designated. I think it would be worthwhile for all schools to collect money as we did to send food and clothing to Europe.

ELWOOD EVANS,
Kenly, North Carolina.

I think compulsory military training should be established in our country. Only through this training can we have an armed force capable of protecting our country. If there should be another war, it will be a scientific war, with weapons such as jet planes, atomic bombs, and radio-controlled war machines; but we will also need a large number of well-trained men. If these men are not trained before any such war is an actuality, we will have no chance whatsoever of surviving.

EMERY A. BATES,
Annapolis, Maryland.

I think Mr. Bidault's plan for reducing the German population by allowing Germans to settle in other countries is a good one. We must never let Germany have the manpower or the industries to wage another war.

I think, too, that the United States should take some of the German people into this country. The Germans work hard, have very scientific and inventive minds, and would be an asset to our life.

ROBERT H. GREEN,
Oakdale, New York.

I do not approve of the amendment to limit the time a President is in office to two terms, or eight years. The Chief Executive has the right to remain in office as long as the people want him there, and as long as he feels capable of doing the work.

HOWARD DEAN,
San Diego, California.

We would like to point out that St. Louis has television broadcasting facilities. The name of this city was omitted in your recent article on television.

GLORIA ELLER,
Robertson, Missouri.

In a recent issue of this paper you discussed the Panama Canal. You said the Canal was not big enough to handle the traffic that wants to go through. I suggest that another canal be built through Nicaragua. At one location there is a large lake that

would make the building of a canal very easy.

ROBERT CHILCOTE,
Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Machinery and equipment should not be taken from Japan and given to China and the Philippines. I believe a defeated country has the right to build herself up again. She should not be allowed to be as strong as she would have been had she not gone to war, but she should be allowed to produce enough goods for her people.

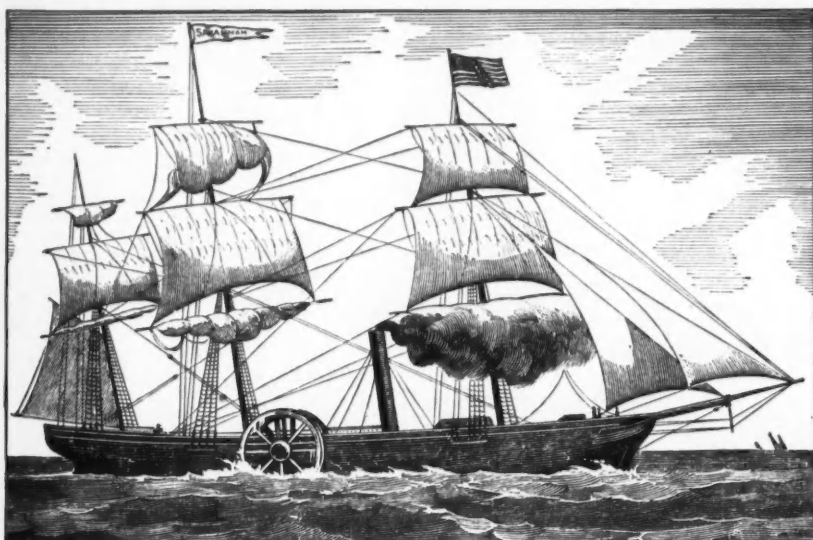
DOLORES J. KATKOCIN,
Lansford, Pennsylvania.

I think it is right to take machinery and equipment from Japanese factories and give it to the Chinese and Filipinos. These people will use the equipment to improve their countries. If the goods were left with the Japanese, they might try to build war industries again and threaten the world.

ELEANOR TAPTICH,
Lansford, Pennsylvania.

There are many good arguments for and against the United States' giving aid to Greece and Turkey. In my opinion, the arguments favoring the loan outweigh the others. If we are to stop the spread of communism, let's start!

HENRY R. TRAVIS,
Cleveland, Ohio.



THE SAVANNAH was the first steamship to cross the Atlantic. Although it had steam power, the ship used its sails for part of the voyage.

Historical Backgrounds

By Harry C. Thomson

ON May 22, in the year 1819, a strange-looking ship left the harbor of Savannah, Georgia, on a voyage to England. It was a sailing ship, but above its deck rose a large funnel which poured forth clouds of black smoke. The *Savannah*, as it was called, was a sailing vessel which had been equipped with steam engines.

Twenty-five days later the *Savannah* arrived in Liverpool—the first steam-driven ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. It had used its sails most of the time during the voyage because it could not carry enough coal to keep its engines running continuously. But its voyage opened a new era in the history of ocean transportation. The date of its departure from Savannah, May 22, is now celebrated in the United States as "Maritime Day."

The first successful steamship to be built in America was Robert Fulton's *Clermont*, which steamed up the Hudson River from New York to Albany in 1807. Ever since James Watt's invention of the steam engine (1769), inventors had dreamed of the possibility of using steam power for ships. They had seen the great advantages of vessels which were faster than sailing ships, and which were independent of wind or weather.

But many improvements in the first crude steamships were needed before they could successfully challenge sailing ships. During the 1840's and 1850's the steamships were no match for the American-built "clipper ships." These were long, slender vessels with towering masts and billowing white sails which gave them great speed. They made the long voyage from New York or Boston to China in record time, often traveling more than 400 miles a day. One of the fastest clipper ships made this voyage in 88 days.

As time passed, however, improvements in steamship construction hastened the end of the sailing ship era. Not only did steam replace sails, but iron and steel replaced wood. Contrary to the beliefs of those who said that iron ships would never float, successful experiments with such vessels were made in the early years of the 19th century. By 1900 nearly all the large ocean-going ships were made of steel, which proved to be lighter, stronger, and more durable than wood.

At the same time other improvements were made. The more efficient screw propeller, with blades like

those of an electric fan, replaced the cumbersome paddle wheel used on the *Savannah* and the *Clermont*. In later years oil came into use for fuel. It is much easier to load and less bulky.

With the use of steel and more powerful engines it has become possible to build larger, faster, and safer ships. Columbus' flagship, the *Santa Maria*, weighed only about 200 tons, and the *Mayflower* was about the same size. The largest vessels now afloat weigh more than 70,000 tons.

The giant passenger liners of today are "floating palaces" with comfortable cabins, beautiful dining rooms, swimming pools, and fully-equipped motion picture theaters. They are able to cross the Atlantic in less than four days' time, as compared with 67 days for the *Mayflower's* voyage.

A Future Career -- Optometry

THERE seem to be rather good prospects for well-qualified persons to carve careers for themselves in the field of optometry. The optometrist measures eyesight, grinds lenses, and fits glasses. In the majority of cases eye doctors, or oculists, as they are called, send their patients, after examining their eyes, to an optometrist, who supplies glasses as prescribed by the oculist.

Many people go to optometrists for glasses in the first place rather than to oculists. The optometrist, though, is not allowed to examine or treat the eyes by using drugs, medicines, or by certain other methods employed by oculists. He must test the vision solely with mechanical devices.

The testing of eyes, however, is only a sideline for most optometrists. Their chief business is the selling of glasses.

The newly graduated optometrist may find employment either with an established optometrist's firm or in a jewelry store with an optometry department, or he may set up a business of his own. As a salaried employee, he generally earns anywhere from \$35 to \$75 a week. A large number of optometrists gradually work up to the point where they establish shops of their own, either independently or in a jewelry store.

The majority of optometry shops have an annual net income of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year. Some of the larger ones located in good-size cities earn much more.

There is reason to believe that this profession is not crowded. Before and during the war, only a small number of persons were being graduated from the optometry schools each year.

If one desires to enter the field of

health service and yet does not want to go through the long and costly training period required of doctors, optometry may be the answer. The working hours of an optometrist are shorter and more regular than those of a physician. There is also less responsibility and strain attached to the work.

The salaried optometrist does not make nearly so much as the majority of doctors do, but most owners of optometry shops have earnings which compare favorably with those of successful physicians. To succeed in a business of his own, however, the optometrist must have both technical skill and business ability. One who is contemplating having a shop of his own should take a business course along with his training in optometry.

The training requirements in this profession differ in the various states, but, in nearly every state, one must complete his high school course in order to enter an optometry school. There are only a few such schools in the country whose standards are approved by the American Optometric Association.

The course varies from two to four years. Tuition averages about \$350 annually. Students who intend to practice in New York should observe that they must attend a school which gives a four-year course and which is connected with a university. Students elsewhere may write to their state boards of optometry, asking for information on approved schools and legal requirements in their states.

The leading professional organization in the field is the American Optometric Association, 518 Wilmack Building, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota. Factual information may be obtained from this organization.

A pamphlet which gives considerable information on this profession is *Optometry*, Guidance Leaflet No. 22, Office of Education, Department of Interior. It may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for five cents. While this pamphlet was written some years ago, its information is still of value today.

Your library will undoubtedly have material on optometry. In addition to reading on the subject, it would be well for you to talk with persons engaged in this work in your community.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Weekly Study Guide

Voting Age

1. What steps are being taken in the attempt to allow 18-year-old Americans to vote?
2. Which state now allows persons of this age to begin voting in regular elections?
3. True or false: All countries provide full citizenship at the age of 21.
4. Outline briefly the arguments for allowing youth to vote at 18.
5. Give some of the arguments against this proposal.

Discussion

1. Do you think most 18-year-olds are ready to vote? Why or why not?
2. Some observers believe that 18-year-olds would vote the same way their parents do. Tell why you agree or disagree with this claim.

Foreign Broadcasts

1. What government agency is in charge of our broadcasts to foreign nations?
2. Name some of the languages in which these programs are broadcast.
3. What are some of the types of programs?
4. In which sections of the United States are the government's short wave transmitters located?
5. Give two arguments against continuing the broadcasts.
6. Give two arguments for continuing the broadcasts.

Discussion

1. Do you think our government should take an active part in explaining

our way of life to other nations? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Have you ever heard any radio programs beamed to the United States from other countries? If so, what did you think of them? If you have not heard any, would you like to?

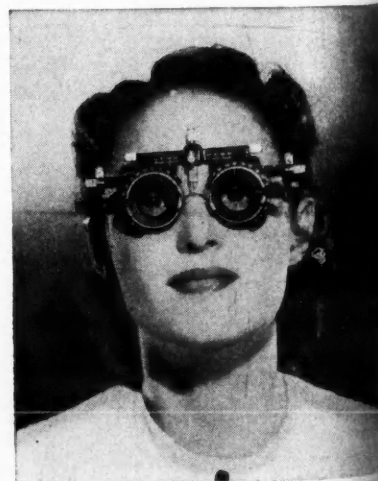
Miscellaneous

1. What recent Supreme Court decision has been widely discussed and debated?
2. What step must yet be taken before the Great Lakes can be connected for shipping purposes with the Atlantic Ocean?
3. Who is Ann Curtis, and why has she been in the news?
4. How is the Brazilian government dealing with the Communist Party of that country?
5. Who are the "Untouchables" in India, and what development concerning them has recently occurred?
6. Why are many people in Sicily dissatisfied with their conditions?
7. What role is now being played by the Communists in the French government?

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (d) hastily, without deep study;
2. (d) liking;
3. (a) united;
4. (b) serves as an example for the future;
5. (a) cancelled;
6. (c) trite and commonplace remark;
7. (b) hinted;
8. (b) small and exclusive group.

Pronunciations
Catania—kah-tah'nyah (y as in yes)
Messina—mē-sē'nuh
Palermo—puh-ler'mō



TESTING FRAME, used by the optometrist